

1608/5276



An IMPARTIAL Enquiry into the

PRESENT STATE

OF THE

British Distillery :

Plainly DEMONSTRATING the EVIL
Consequences &c.



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Note, The great Difficulty in getting a Sight
of the Accounts, from which the Cal-
culations in this Enquiry have been made,
occasioned the Re-printing it, to amend
the Mistakes in the first Impression.



Impartial Enquiry

I N T O

The Present STATE of the

BRITISH DISTILLERY;

Plainly demonstrating the EVIL Consequences
of imposing any Additional DUTIES on
BRITISH SPIRITS.

And that all the Real Disorders and Immoralities justly
complained of in the Method of Retailing them may
be effectually remedied by a proper Regulation in
the Home-Consumption of this MANUFACTURE
without the total Prohibition of it.

Wherein also the manifest Absurdities and gross Imposi-
tions on the Publick contained in a printed *Pamphlet*,
entituled,

Distilled Spirituous Liquors the Bane of the
P A T R I O T.

Are fully *DETECTED* and *EXPOSED.*

The SECOND EDITION.

L O N D O N :

Printed for J. ROBERTS, in *Warwick-Lane.*
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1608/5276

Imperial Engraving

1770

The Eastern States of the

BRITISH DISTILLERY

Wholesale and Retail Distillers
of all kinds of Spirits
and Wines

and that of the British
Government in the
East India Company
in the year 1770
the first of the
series of the
British Distillery

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and Wines

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A N
IMPARTIAL ENQUIRY

I N T O

The Present STATE of the
BRITISH DISTILLERY.

THE visible ill consequences of retailing Spirituous Liquors in the method now practised, and the frequent immoralities and Disorders in places where they are usually drank, are Evils every honest Man who has the least regard to the happiness and welfare of his Country, would desire to see effectually remedied; and what the Distillers themselves, as well as the Numerous body of industrious People immediately interested in the Consumption of Grain and Molasses for Distillation, would as readily concur in: altho' a certain Body of Men have endeavoured to raise a general clamour against Distillery without distinction; imagining, under the cover of plausible popular arguments on that subject, to encrease their own trade by the destruction of another; as if the Question (to use one of their own expressions) was only this, *who* should Poison the People? and not whether the interposition of the Legislature is necessary for preventing their destruction by habitual Drunkenness and Debauchery.

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EVERY

EVERY impartial Man must likewise allow, that it would be just in a Legislature to destroy the Trade, Wealth and Industry of any one Sett of Men in the Kingdom for the Publick Advantage ; and that where such Trade stands in competition with the Health or Morals of the common People, it ought not to be made a Question which should be preserved ? But the great Difficulty in this Case is, that the Reasons, which have been given for suppressing the use of *British* Spirits, are not founded on Facts. The Arguments for that purpose generally begin with begging the Question, that *British* Spirits in their Nature have all the dismal effects attributed to them, and therefore that nothing less than an absolute Prohibition, or heavy Duty amounting to it, can be a real Remedy.

THIS is the Method taken in all the Pamphlets that have been hitherto wrote on this subject, against the use of *British* Spirits, as well as in the Arguments that have been used for that purpose in another place. They take it for granted, those who drink *British* Spirits, with the greatest moderation, are mere *Fire-Eaters*. ; they labour to demonstrate one point in which they were never yet contradicted, that the immoderate Use of Spirituous Liquors produces bad effects (as indeed the like use of all Liquors whatever will do). And then, without any foundation in the World, attribute all the Disorders such People may Commit, every Vice they may indulge themselves in, to the Pernicious Qualities of this Liquor.

THERE is also one thing, artfully avoided in all the Objections hitherto made to *British* Spirits. They have not touched upon One reasonable Expedient for remedying the abuses complained

complained of; or so much as entered into the Debate, whether it is not possible to answer the Ends proposed; and at the same time leave so Useful and Beneficial a Manufacture subsisting, to the great Advantage of the Nation in general, and many thousand families in particular. This would have been a candid and impartial method of treating the Debate on so Important a Question, and a Decency to so supream a Court of Judicature as they apply to for relief on this occasion; from whom nothing material, to enable them justly to determine, ought to be concealed; and who notwithstanding the Arts used, no doubt will sufficiently distinguish the fraudulent Disguise in the Representations on this Subject.

In considering and impartially stating this Case; I shall readily admit, that neither the great Consumption of Grain or other Materials in the *British* Distillery, the Encrease of Navigation and Nursery of Seamen in the Coast- ing Trade, the Livelyhood of Maltsters and Factors, the Support of the Farmer, enabling him to pay both rent and taxes, the Strength of the Landed Interest, or the Encouragement of our Colonies in *America*, ought to be of any weight or consideration with the Legislature, in comparison to the preserving the Morals and Strength of the people in general. The former should very reasonably be Sacrificed to the latter, altho' attended with the Severe Consequences of stripping the great body of Men employed in the Distillery of the Fruits of their Industry, and of that Trade in which they have been bred, and launched out their fortunes on the faith of a Royal Charter, and many Acts of Parliament; of rendring quite

useless the great Sums they have laid out in Utensils and Buildings for carrying on their Trade, Neither of these would I contend for in the Case supposed, were the facts fully proved; Nor should the Starving them and their families, the lessening the labour and employment of many Artificers depending on them, or any other Evils of the like Nature stand in the way of remedying a more publick National grievance *where no other remedy can be had.*

To set this Case in a clear Light, it may not be unnecessary, in the first place, to consider the Rise and Progress of Distillery in *England*, as well as the Present State of it; by which We may the better distinguish the Cause of those disorders which have crept in by retailing Spirituous Liquors: for it is with the political as with the natural body, *To know the Disease and its Real Cause is Half the Cure.*

IN the fourteenth year of King *Charles* the First, the Company of Distillers were Incorporated by Charter for the Sole making of Brandy, Strong Waters *Aqua Vitæ*, Spirits, Low Wines and Vinegar within the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and Twenty One miles distance, in order to prevent the making Distilled Liquors of a base and unwholesome nature: many inexpert Persons then exercising the Art of Distillation; and for that end certain Regulations were established by the said Charter, by virtue whereof, all persons were restrained from following the business of Distilling within the limitts mentioned in the Charter, except such as were regularly bred to the Trade and became Members of the Company.

AND for reforming the Abuses then practiced
in

in making and distilling of Strong Waters, the Master and Wardens were enjoined, by the Charter, to Collect and Compose a Book of Receipts or Dispensatory; which was accordingly done by Doctor *Cademan* the Queen's Physician, the first Master appointed by the Charter, and Sir *Theodore de Mayerne*, the King's Physician, Founder and perpetual Assistant of this Company; Men of great Skill and Ability in their profession; which Book is given to every Member made free, who is directed to the Observance of the Rules thereof.

THIS Charter gave the Company a power to make By-Laws, for the better regulation of their members; preventing the use of any Unwholesome Ingredients in Distillation, and punishing disorderly persons of the Corporation, &c.

SUCH was the Care taken in Incorporating this Company; and indeed the Provisions made by this Charter fully answered the End proposed: no Complaints were heard of the abuse in drinking Spirituous Liquors, whilst the Authority, the Corporation were Invested with by this Charter, subsisted. In the beginning of King *William's* Reign, when the Burthen of the War lay heavy on the Landed Interest, it was thought necessary by the Legislature to give it some Aid; and therefore by an Act of Parliament in the second Year of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, for the encouraging the Distilling of Brandy and Spirits from Corn; Liberty was given to all persons whatever to make, draw or distil for Sale, or to be retailed, any Low Wines or Spirits from Drink brewed from Malted Corn, notwithstanding any Charter, &c.

THIS Act continued in force five Years; and

and then Expiring, the Legislature having sufficiently experienced the great Advantage in encouraging the *British* Distillery by this method; the former Act was revived, and made Perpetual; and the Liberty of Distilling extended to the Use of Cyder, and Rectifying the Spirits Distilled.

IN Consequence of these Acts, a great Number of persons unskilful in the Art of Distilling, who had not been bred to any Settled Trade, set up that business; and therefore became liable to the penalties of the Act of the fifth of *Queen Elizabeth*, restraining Artificers and others from following Trades to which they had not served Apprenticeships.

THE Company of Distillers, finding a Number of people thus following the business of Distilling; and many of them making a Commodity Inferior in quality and goodness to that which they were prescribed to make by their Charter, prosecuted many of these new Distillers on the Act of *Queen Elizabeth*.

BUT so intent were the Legislature on effectually promoting and encouraging the *British* Distillery at all events, and thereby Increasing the Revenue of Excise, and consumption of Malted Corn and Cyder, that in the twelfth Year of *Queen Ann*, it was enacted, that *no person Distilling Brandy or Spirits from British Malt, or Cyder should be prosecuted for so doing on the Act of Queen Elizabeth*.

UPON the Encouragement thus given by Three several Acts of Parliament to Distilling *British* Spirits, the Distillers in and about *London* were necessitated to extend their Manufacture and Dealing in that Branch established by the Legislature: in which they have expended
very

very great Sums of Money, and many Persons of Character and Fortune have engaged in this way of business; by which means, and by the Improvement made in the *British* Distillery, they have brought the Manufacture to the considerable Height and Perfection it is now at.

The Distillers, who are Members of the Corporation, are Computed at about Three Hundred. Those who follow the business within the Bills of Mortality, not being free of the Company, but who live in Credit, and have considerable trade and dealing, at about Twelve Hundred, not accounting obscure or disorderly persons, who, since the late Acts of Parliament, pretend to be Distillers, and probably may some of them be entred as such at the Excise Office, but who often retail Spirituous Liquors in the manner complained of.

Of these 1500 Distillers, some are of a different Trade and Dealing from the Others; and therefore the Utenfils employ'd by them very different in Value, according to the following Estimate.

	Each l.	Total
28 whose Utenfils are Valued at	5000	140,000
22 at _____	2000	44,000
50 at _____	1000	50,000
100 at _____	500	50,000
100 at _____	200	20,000
500 at _____	100	50,000
300 at _____	50	15,000
400 at _____	25	10,000

1500 379,000
which Utenfils, upon a moderate computation,
cost one Year with another, on a Medium of

10 Years, about Ten *per Cent.* to keep in repair : Amounting to 37,900*l.* *per Ann.* in which many Trades and Artificers are employed and supported, as Smiths, Coopers, Copper-smiths, Wheel-wrights, Bricklayers, Carpenters, Plumbers, Worm-makers, Back-makers, Founders, Mill-wrights, &c.

These Distillers also, upon a moderate Calculation, consume at least 400,000 Quarters of Grain of Different Sorts, as Wheat, Barley, Bear or Big, which latter is supplied chiefly from the Northern Parts : besides a great quantity of Molasses, damaged or very coarse Sugars from the Plantations, and Molasses from the Sugar-Bakers, to the Amount of about 14000 Hog-sheads, Cyder from the Western parts of *England* ; from all which Materials, the Distillers in Town and Country extract about 5,225,976 Gallons of Spirits, which under the different denominations, one with another, pay an Excise of 5*d.* three Farthings *per Gallon* ; which on a medium of 7 Years last past amount to 124428*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* *per Annum.*

In this Extended Trade of the *British* Distillery, founded on the Acts of Parliament before-mentioned, we must consider the Corporation of Distillers divested of all Authority over persons exercising their Trade. By these means the Numbers, have greatly encreased, and chiefly those who often made Spirits of an Unwholsome and Improper Ingredients, and who have introduced many Disorders in the retailing this Commodity, which occasioned the Act of the Second Year of his present Majesty, known by the Name of the *Gin-Act*. This Act laid a Duty of Five Shillings a Gallon, on Strong Waters,

ters, and requires every Retailer to take a Licence from the Excise-Office, and pay Twenty Pounds Yearly for the same. And the same Session an Act also passed, obliging Distillers and others, who sold Brandy, Spirits or Strong Waters to be drank in their houses, to take Licences as Common Ale-houses.

THE Regular Orderly part of the trade, as well those who are Free of the Company, as those who are not, from whose Manufacture the National Advantage chiefly arises, and who would readily concur in remedying all the Real Abuses complained of, were in some measure at a Stand during the Continuance of this Act; their Dealings chiefly lying with Country Shopkeepers, Apothecarys, Varnishers, or Japaners, &c. This gave occasion to persons of desperate Circumstances and bad Characters to take out Licences for retailing Spirituous Liquors, without any Intention of paying the Dutys; and many others privately Sold Spirits without any Licence at all; for it appears by the Accounts from the Excise-Office, that only 429 Licences were taken out in Three Years, amounting to 8580 *l.* And that the Duty of Five Shillings a Gallon on Strong Waters, received in that time, including what was sold by Wholesale as well as what was Retailed, amounted to no more than 4991 *l.* 4 *s.* 3 *d.* $\frac{1}{4}$

THE great Advantages gained in this method, by these Retailers in a publick and private way, multiplied their Numbers; and promoted and encouraged those scandalous Disorders and Debaucheries so justly complained of. This was the effect of the Duty of 5 *shill.* per Gallon, and the Discouragement to the Fair Trader, and

Men of Fortune and Character employed in so considerable a Manufacture ; so that it may be truly said, this Act in no sort answered the good purposes for which it was Intended, and for that Cause was in the seventh Year of His present Majesty repealed.

HAVING thus briefly stated the Rise and Progress of the *British* Distillery, I shall next consider the Nature of this Manufacture, and the Arguments that have been offered to show how Pernicious it is to the National Interest, and destructive to the Health and Morals of the people.

IF Physicians are to be credited in this Case, there can be nothing Pernicious in the nature of *British* Spirits, but only in the immoderate use of them among the Common people ; which every one will agree requires a proper and suitable Remedy : but it does not from thence follow, that the Manufacture itself is to be totally destroyed as so much Poison.

DOCTOR Quincy in his *English* Dispensatory, Part 2 Sect. 1. p. 67. under the head of *Cardiacs*, says,

“ WHATSOEVER raises the Spirits, and gives
 “ sudden Strength and Chearfulness, is termed
 “ *Cardiac* or *Gordial*, as comforting the Heart :
 “ to understand the Operation of which upon
 “ a Human Body, it is necessary to consider,
 “ that a Languor or Faintness must either be
 “ the consequence of too much exercise, too
 “ long watching, or too great a hurry of the
 “ Animal functions, as in many distempers, All
 “ which so far waste or dissipate the Nervous
 “ Fluid or Animal Spirits, that the Solids cannot repeat with wonted Vigour their Necessary
 “ fary

“sary motions; or such Depression must arise
 “from an Obstruction of some Natural Eva-
 “cuation; and this is generally that of Perspi-
 “ration from External Cold; which lays a
 “Load upon the Constitution, and produces
 “the same Sensation as a Diminution of Strength
 “would do, when the usual weight remained.

“IN both those Cases the manner by which
 “a Cordial Acts is the same; Since it must pro-
 “duce its Effects by adding to the Springiness
 “and Force of the Fibres, which Change is
 “most remarkably occasioned by Spirits or
 “Spirituos Liquors.

And in page 68.

“As a Constitution becomes weak by Age,
 “Artificial Helps are more needful.

“FOR when the Digestive Faculties grow
 “Languid, and are not able to furnish a due
 “Support from usual diet, for the waists that
 “are daily made in the Animal Œconomy, then
 “these Auxiliaries are the more wanted; and
 “whatsoever means at any time occasion a Di-
 “stemperature in this Fluid, such Assistances
 “as come under this denomination are necessa-
 “ry, they being fitted by degrees to wear out
 “such Undue Mixtures, and Invigorate the
 “whole Nervous System by a new supply of
 “Spirits.”

IT would be needless to seek after many like
 Authorities of this kind, to show that Spirituous
 Liquors are in many Cases rather Physick than
 Poison in their own nature; which is the only
 point I at present contend for, in answer to the
 many contrary Clamours on that subject; ta-
 king it also for Granted, that every one will al-
 low a Spirit drawn from Malt or Molasses is ra-

ther Wholesomer than a Spirit drawn from any other Ingredients ; so that the pernicious consequences can only happen from the Excessive and Improper use of it : which I shall in the Close of this discourse fully consider, as what wants an Effectual Remedy.

IN Cases where the Use of any Commodities or Manufactures, employing the Trade, Labour, or Industry of the people in general, is become hurtful or pernicious in particular Instances, yet unless it is so in some Eminent Degree, so as to endanger the Welfare of the Whole Community ; a Government no doubt will ever be cautious in attempting to impose any Restraints, because of the known Difficulty in exactly distinguishing, by the best Laws human wisdom can frame, between a Proper and Reasonable Use and the Abuse of any such Commodity or Manufacture consumed by the people : for Experience shows that Restraining Laws have generally been deficient in answering the End designed, but rather have restrained things not intended, or else introduced Evils that could not have happened but by such restraints : an Instance of which may be observed in the Gin-Act which encreased those very Abuses it was calculated to destroy.

IF for these reasons a Government is to proceed cautiously in suppressing the abuses I have mentioned, from the ill Consequences that may happen ; how strange and unheard-of a Policy would it then be, to attempt the Total Prohibition of such Manufactures, in all its branches, because in the Home-Consumption they happen to be used to Excess by Particular Persons ; by the Dregs of the people, who can hardly be Govern'd by any Laws !

We might indeed by such means, supposing Human Nature adapted to Laws necessary for that purpose, soon become a *Reformed*, but at the same time a *Beggarly* people. We could not long continue Powerful and Opulent : the two chief Points which employ the Grand Machine of Government, and bespeak the Attention of a Legislature ! One would Imagine by the Objections in general made to the use of Malt Spirits, that all other things used in drink or food were Physick, and the former only Poison. But the Partiality of this way of thinking will be easily detected, if we consider the Nature and Quality of many other things used as Food or Drink, especially the latter.

Is there any thing more pernicious, than the immoderate use of Coffee and Tea, which has encreased to a surprizing height within a few years, among all ranks and degrees of people in the Kingdom ? Is it not one constant Meal a day, and often times a Regale in an afternoon ? will our Servant Maids be fed on any other terms, or will the Wives or Children of the lowest Artificers fail of using it once a day at least ? Is not the use of Coffee and Tea also looked upon as the improvement, and part of the fine breeding of our Farmers Wives and Children ? And this Commodity being so universally used to Excess, tho' not of our own Product, but purchased with the Ready Miony of the Kingdom, arising from the Industry and labour of our Manufacturers ; what a loss is here to the Landed Interest ? According to the Calculations of that Modest Author, those who drink Spirituous Liquors in *London* are two hundred Thousand, and that they consume three-

pence

perice a day less in provisions by reason of such drinking ; And yet, notwithstanding all this, altho' the Strength of the Objections to Spirituous Liquors equally lies to Coffee and Tea, yet I should think it a Monstrous Proposition, to attempt prohibiting the Use of Tea and Coffee, Commodities which employ so many Thousand Families in Importing, Exporting, Vending and Retailing, and which occasion so great a Consumption of Sugar, the Product of our Colonies Manufactured at home.

I could mention Several other things of the like nature equally held to be pernicious, as the immoderate use of Tobacco, the Life and Soul of our Colonies in *America*, which we use to great excess by all the different ways that can be invented: the like use of Spices which has been always allowed a great Inflamer of the blood, and yet of late Years introduced in most parts of our diet ; And also the known pernicious Adulteration of unwholesome mixtures of Wines ; and the great consumption of Hops, which all Writers allow to be a promoter of the Stone and Gravel ; nay even physick it self, or those Drugs so called and usually vended as such, which from the badness of their Quality are in *London* often destroyed, as a degree of Poison, by the Censors of the College of Physicians ; and yet, according to the principles I lay down, neither of these are to be entirely prohibited, without introducing a worse Evil in the place of that intended to be removed.

THERE is nothing but what the Vicious Inclinations of Man may abuse ; and if that Abuse is not in an Eminent degree, so as to endanger the welfare of the whole Community, I shall
lay

lay it down as a general tho' not universal Rule, that it may be an Experiment of Evil Consequence to a Trading People to attempt an Absolute prohibition of things of that nature.

BUT to come more immediately to the main Question propos'd; to consider the great Importance of the *British* Distillery and the National Concern in its preservation.

I must, I confess, differ entirely from the Author I mention, both in the matters of Fact pretended to be advanced by him, as well as in the Conclusions drawn from them. I shall show they are not Facts, but Monstrous Falsities and Absurdities in many Instances; and what weight Reasoning can have on such foundations, I shall submit to the judgment of every Impartial person.

IF we consider truly this Valuable Manufacture of the *British* Distillery, it is in itself, or at least with such farther encouragement as may reasonably be given to it by the Legislature may be made, a Treasure more Useful to this Kingdom than the Mines of *Peru*, which only employs Slaves; and the possession thereof has drawn a people once the most considerable and formidable in the World to a Wretched state of Indolence and Poverty: whereas the *British* Distillery, like a real Treasure, is the certain Advantage and Support of the Landed Interest, (which Mediatly or Immediately pays all the Taxes in the Kingdom, and is the chief Resource this Nation has in all Emergencies to answer the publick wants,) and also Circulates and diffuses an Industry and Gain thro' so many different hands, as multiplies its benefit beyond Imagination.

nation, exceeding most other Manufactures in the Kingdom.

To explain these Advantages more particularly, I will suppose the Distillers consume Yearly 400,000 Quarters of Grain of different denominations, and Supposing the Land on which this Grain is raised, to bear one Acre with another, Two Quarter (which allowing for Accidents in bad Crops, and a great deal of poor Land being of late Years employed in Tillage, may be a reasonable Computation) the Quantity of Land employed to answer this Consumption must then be 200,000 Acres. And supposing 100 Acres to be a moderate proportion for each farmer to occupy, and that he has including himself Five in family and a Team of Horses of the same Number,

THIS Tillage then maintains Ten Thousand Souls, and Ten Thousand Horses, employs many Artificers in the Country as Wheel-wrights, Smiths, &c. and consumes many materials in Wood and Iron, And if all this Grain is brought to *London* by Coasting Vessels, there is employed between Two and Three Thousand Tun of Shipping in the course of a Year for this purpose; in which a Number of Seamen must be bred and employed.

THERE are Factors in the Country to buy, Labourers to Ship, and Carriage to the Waterside (Grain not lying always equally near.)

In all this there is considerable Wear and Tare of Materials, which Implies many Artificers, Factors are again Employed to buy or sell this Grain at a Market, the Distillers employ many hands in the Manufacturing the Grain into Spirits, they Employ Carpenters, Coopers, Smiths, Copper

Copper-Smiths, and other artificers beforementioned in their Utensils for Distillation, and consume many thousand Chaldrons of Coals, employ many Labourers and Servants, cause a great Carriage in Town and Country, supply their Dealers with the Distilled Spirits, not only for drinking, but for many other Uses; as to Apothecarys, Chymists, Japanners, Cabinet makers and many other trades; They also pay a great Revenue to the Crown, which for the two last Years has amounted to above 150,000 *l.* a Year, which Revenue is appropriated to answer the publick Debts; besides the advantage to the Revenue in the Duty of Malt and Coals, and the Increase of the Land-tax by raising the Value of Land. To this we may add the great consumption of Sugars, Molasses, Cyder and decayed Wines.

So diffusive so beneficial is the Distillery of *British* Spirits, that all Ranks and Degrees of men in the Kingdom feel the real effects and advantage of it, not forgetting the Reverend Clergy in the Increase of their tythes, nor the Colleges in our Universities and other Publick Foundations; part of whose Revenues are payable in Corn.

If these are Facts, which every one who will Impartially consider may almost determine on his own experience, Surely no man can be in earnest to desire such a Manufacture should be destroyed, or would wish to give up such a Treasure, arising from the labour and industry of such multitudes of people, or wish this Sacrifice made purely to prevent the Debaucheries of the Common sort, or to aggrandize a Set of Men notoriously known to sell an Adulterated and more Unwholesome Composition, or because the Civil Magistrates and Inferior Of-

fficers will not or cannot do their Duty, in sup-
pressing publick rioting and disorders, or that
the Laws are deficient to enable them so to do
with any effect.

As to the Landed Interest in particular, let those who are Land-owners seriously consider the consequence of this great and certain Consumption of Grain, more valuable in some respects than Foreign Exportation, which depends on many accidents, and the particular demand for it abroad.

Let them consider with what difficulty they can get their Rents of Tenants with all these advantages, since they have been so much raised of late years.

- It is well known, that at this time there is not one thing to the advantage of the Farmers but Grain, which is their only Dependence in Corn-Countrys, particularly in the Northern and Eastern parts; from whence they chiefly supply the *London* Market, and what an advantage it is to the Farmer that if his Crop receives any damage by accident as to be unfit for other uses, yet it will accommodate the Distillers, so that he is always sure of a market.

THE Cyder-Countries are also concerned in the consumption of that Commodity for distillation. How many Estates have raised in Value from Two to Five or Six Hundred pounds a Year, merely on account of the Vent of Cyder to Distillers, which in plentiful Crops they cannot otherwise dispose of?

THE advantage to our Colonies, altho' a small part of what the rest of this Kingdom finds by the *British* Distillery, yet ought not to be omitted in the Computations in this Case; If we

do but reflect on the Low condition the Planters are in, not only by Indifferent Crops of late Years but by the Cheapness of Sugars, and the Planters being Rival'd by the French Colonies: if these things are duly considered, the Vent for their Molasses and sometimes for their coarse and damaged Sugars to the Distillers, and the vent of Molasses made by our Sugar-Bakers here, are of too great consequence to the Interest of our Colonies, in their present declining condition, to deprive them of the means of Consuming: the rather for that neither Planter or Sugar-Baker can have any other equal Vent for those Commodities.

It has been one main Argument against the *British* Distillery, that Beer and Ale are most wholesome Liquors, the Consumption of which is greatly lessened by the use of *British* Spirits; and that the Revenue can reap no Advantage by the latter, by reason the Duties arising from thence are sufficiently ballanced by the Decrease of the Revenue on the former, which I shall in the next place consider.

As to the Wholesomeness of Beer and Ale, it is just in the same state as *British* Spirits: useful to some Constitutions, and pernicious to others; with this distinction, that Drunkenness with Beer and Ale remains longer on a Man, and consequently must be more prejudicial, than with Spirituous Liquors which soon go off.

Doctor Quincy says,
 " MANY Instances may be brought which
 " can admit of no doubt, where Constitutions
 " have been spoiled by Ale, for that manifest-
 " ly souls the Glands, stuffs the Vessels with
 " Slime and Viscidity, makes the Body unwell-

" dy and Corpulent, and paves the way for
 " Cachexies, Jaundices, Asthma's and incurable
 " Dropfies: the urinary passages, which like-
 " wise it is imagined to clear; it will by degrees
 " fill with Slough and Matter of as bad Con-
 " sequence as Gravel.
 " The stronger Malt Liquors are, the more
 " viscid parts they carry into the Blood, and
 " tho' the Spirituous Parts make these unper-
 " ceptible at first, yet when they are evapora-
 " ted or gone off, which will be in a few
 " Hours, the other will be sensibly enough
 " felt by Pains in the head, Nauseousness at
 " the Stomach, and Lassitude or Listlessness to
 " motion, This those are much the best jud-
 " ges of, who have experienced the Extreame
 " of drinking of these Liquors and of Wines,
 " for a Debauch of Wine they find much soo-
 " ner worn off, and they are much more lively
 " and brisk afterwards, than upon over-tipling
 " Malt Liquors; whose Viscid Remains will
 " be a long time before they can be shook a-
 " way. The Pale Malt Drink has certainly
 " most of the Grain in it and is therefore most
 " Nourishing; but also for that reason, those
 " who drink much of it are generally sleek and
 " fat in the bloom of their Age, but if they
 " are not suddenly cut off by Feavers, as they
 " generally are, they fall very early into a di-
 " stemper'd Old Age, and hardly support the
 " burden of Life with a Retinue of diseases.
 " The Brown Malt makes a Drink much less
 " Viscid and fitter to pass the several Straines
 " of the Body, but what is very strong of it
 " may be used in Excess enough to bring on
 " the Inconveniencies of the former.

Notwith,

Notwithstanding all these ill Qualities, which undoubtedly may be attributed to Malt Liquors, One would look upon a Man to be out of his Senses, who should contend for a Prohibition or Restraint on the consumption by heavy duties or otherwise, because they may be hurtful to some Constitutions, or generally pernicious if drunk to Excess : which is the utmost Strength of the Objection to *British* Spirits.

As to the point of the Revenue, whether the Increase of the Excise on *British* Spirits has occasioned an equal Decrease of the Excise on Malt Liquors, that will best appear by Stating the Product.

Total Gross Produce on the different Duties on <i>British</i> Spirits.	Total Gross produce of the Duties on Beer and Ale.
1728 ————— 115966	1005199
1729 ————— 118169	963763
1730 ————— 99833	1021946
1731 ————— 110743	1050988
1733 ————— 121263	1067963
1734 ————— 151010	1063504
1735 ————— 154014	1021370
Total <u>870998</u>	<u>7194733</u>

Medium of each 124428-5-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 1027819.

NOTE. For the ease of the Reader the Odd Money is omitted in this Computation, and in the following Remarks. And as to the Year 1732.

1732. which is omitted; it's not found on Inquiry, that the Estimates of that Year have been made publick.

From these Estimates it plainly appears, that the Consumption of *British* Spirits do not lessen the Consumption of Beer and Ale; the which I shall more particularly explain in the following manner.

The Author I mention has been pleased to admit that in the Year 1689, when the *British* Distillery was very Inconsiderable to what it is at present, as much Foreign Brandy was imported in One Year as the Excise thereof amounted to 140000 *l.* at 1 *shill.* 4 *d.* per Gallon; So that there must be Two Million One Hundred Thousand Gallons imported in that Year.

I shall pitch upon the Year 1728 as nearer of any one year to an Indifferent Medium for the Quantity of *British* Spirits for several Years past, preceeding the two last years, wherein the Distillery by reason of the Cheapness of Grain, and for other prudential Reasons, may be well supposed to have Increase more than the Annual Consumption required.

In this Year I mention, the total Amount of the several Duties laid on *British* Spirits of different denomination was the Sum of 115966 *l.* 10 *shill.* and 11 *d.* $\frac{1}{2}$ by which it may be supposed this Manufacture produced in that Year 4860594 Gallons or about 19327 Tun of Spirits.

And the Quantity of Foreign Brandy Imported that Year only amounted to 298236 $\frac{1}{2}$ Gallons or 1183 — Tuns 157 Gallons and a half which is less than was Imported in the Year 1689. by 1801763. $\frac{1}{2}$ Gallons. That Quantity ought to be deducted out of the Quantity of *British* Spirits, as so much our own Manufacture

ture has saved the Importation of, from foreign
 parts, purchased with ready Money; and there-
 fore cannot be applicable to the Supposed De-
 crease of Brewery, and that only 3058830½
 Gallons of *British* Spirits remain to be Account-
 ed for. Of this 3058830½ Gallons there are many
 means of Consumption, exclusive of our Au-
 thor's formidable Army of Gin-Drinkers,
 which were wholly unknown in 1689, as the An-
 nual Exportation, what is used by Japan-
 ners, Cabinet-makers, and other Artificers, Apoth-
 caries, Chymists, nay in all the Hospitals, as
 well as in private Houses, as Medicines, or in
 Medicinal Preparations: which must account
 for the Consumption of a Considerable quantity.
 To this may be added, what is Consumed
 by Seafaring Men in their Voyages, and what
 is used in the making of Punch, where Foreign
 Brandies are not used, which many people who
 used to drink Wines, finding such Adultera-
 ted Nauseous Compositions, now use instead of
 Wines.
 And what may very reasonably account for
 the Consumption of the Residue, in opposition
 to the Suggestion that the Brewery decays as
 the Distillery rises, is the great Increase of peo-
 ple in this Kingdom for forty or fifty Years
 last past, and their way of Living being more
 Expensive, and consequently more Liquors of
 all kinds drunk; so that if the Increase in the
 Consumption of Wines and Malt Liquors ap-
 pears to have been made equally in propor-
 tion to increase of the Consumption of *British*
 Spirits it must be Evident, that the Consump-
 tion of Beer and Ale cannot be lessened by the
 Use of *British* Spirits, in the manner pretended
 by the Author, under my Consideration.

I shall farther explain this matter, by Comparing the Estimate of the Duties on *British* Spirits with that of Beer and Ale, by which it will appear to a demonstration, that the Consumption of Beer and Ale has not been lessened in proportion to the Consumption of *British* Spirits; for if that were the Case, the One always must fall below the medium, as the Other rises above it; as for example, in the Year 1730 the Duties on Spirits amounted only to 99833 *l.* 4 *s.* 2 *d.*, which was the lowest of any of the whole Seven Years, and wanted 24595 *l.* of the medium: and in that very Year the Excise of Malt Liquors amounted to 1,021,946 *l.* which was below the Medium for seven Years of the Excise on Beer and Ale 5873 *l.* now if the great Quantity of *British* Spirits distilled occasions a less Consumption of Beer and Ale, and lessens the Revenue of Excise thereon, it must necessarily follow, that in this Year the Duties on Spirits being below the Medium 24595 *l.* the Excise on Beer and Ale must also Increase that Sum above the Medium, which its plain was not the Case in the Instance I quote; but on the Contrary the Excise on Beer and Ale was below its Medium 5873 *l.* which being added to the 24595. it ought to have exceeded, makes the difference 30468 *l.* which is sufficient to falsify the suggestion I contend with on this Subject.

But not knowing what Credit one Witness only may have upon this ingenious Author, I shall produce another to the same purpose.

The Duties on Spirits in the Year 1729 amounted to 118169 *l.* which was 6259 *l.* below its Medium.

The

The same Year the Duties on Beer and Ale amounted to 963763 *l.* which was 64056 *l.* below its Medium, which being added to the 6259 *l.* it ought by this Author's Calculation to have acquired, makes the falsity of the whole appear to be 70315 *l.*

Again,

The Duties on Spirits in the Year 1734 amounted to 151010 *l.* which exceeded its Medium 26582 *l.*

The same Year the Duties on Beer and Ale amounted to 1063504 *l.* which exceeded its Medium 35685 *l.* which being added to the Increase of the Duty on Spirits, exceeding the Medium, it makes together a false Calculation of 62267 *l.*

So that in this last Year altho' the Duties on Beer and Ale exceeded their proper Medium, more than the Duties on Spirits exceeded their proper Medium by 9103 *l.* Yet the Author I mention ventures hard to Impose on mankind in asserting the Quantity of Spirits distilled lessens the Brewery; of which I think the Instances I have given a full Detection, altho' I could have given more, had they been wanting.

But were the Case otherwise, than in fact it really appears to be; Were there any Extraordinary Decrease in the Excise on Malt Liquors, as has happened within these two last Years, comparing the same with the preceeding Year only, to the amount of near 40,000 *l.* a year, it does not therefore follow that it is occasioned by the Consumption of Malt Spirits.

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There are more Natural and Rational Causes to be assigned for such Decrease, which I shall endeavour to explain ; And at the same time shall account for the Decrease in the Excise on Malt Liquors in the Year 1729.

It is well known that in the Year 1729, the best Barley was generally Sold upon an Average at 23 s. *per* Quarrer, and the best Hops at about 4 l. or 5 l. *per* hundred. When these Commodities were so very dear, the Brewers kept low Stocks, were desirous only of brewing sufficient to answer the Immediate Demands of their Customers, and did not, as usual, Brew any Quantities of Beer for Staling ; but the following Years, particularly 1732 and 1733, when Barley and Hops were at a more reasonable Price, they, as well as the Distillers, filled up their Stock, and brewed great Quanties for Staling, by far exceeding the proportion of a Medium for seven Years ; for which reason, it may very naturally follow that in 1734 and 1735, the Duties of Malt Liquors must Decrease, when the Brewers being fully stocked could not have occasion to brew any more than for the Annual Consumption. However it does not thence follow, but as much Beer and Ale was consumed in 1734 and 1735 as in any preceeding Year.

This might be fully confirmed, had we the Opportunity of seeing any Computations of the Dead Stock of Beer and Ale in the different Years : An Information we cannot come at.

It may indeed be Objected, that by the same Rule, the great Increase of People is urged as a Reason why the greater Consumption of British Spirits does not lessen the Consumption of Beer

Beer and Ale; So that if the Excise on Malt Liquors does not Equally encrease in proportion, but remains on a Par: it must therefore be concluded that British Spirits gain ground on Malt Liquors, and the Excise on the former lessens the Excise on the latter: So that as both are supplied with the Product of the Land, by consequence the Landed Interest is not advanced by the Increase of the Distillery.

This Objection is in some measure answered by the Computations already made, but were these not sufficient for the Purpose, there is One thing farther to be considered; which is that altho' the Duties of Excise are a certain Proof of the Consumption of British Spirits, and consequently of the Grain from which it is made; Yet they are not the same equal Proof of the Consumption of Malt in the Brewing Trade, and that the Excise on Malt Liquors may very probably decrease from other Causes, whether the Consumption of British Spirits increase or not. The truth of this appears, if we consider that of late Years, many Artificers and private Families who formerly used to drink Malt Liquors, now drink Wine, and that many who have been Wine Drinkers, tired out with the Adulteration and nauseous unwholesome Compositions of Vintners and Wine Coopers, now drink Punch, for the greatest Part made either of Arrack, Rum, or French Brandy, which must certainly in some proportion lessen the Consumption of Malt Liquors.

There is likewise another Cause which may occasion a Decrease of the Excise on Beer and Ale, tho' the Consumption of Malt in brewing

it may continue the same: that is the Great Quantities of Fine Ale and Beer-Brewers of different sorts in remote Counties, who send most of it to *London*: As,

<i>Burton</i>	}	Ale
<i>Darby</i>		
<i>Nottingham</i>		
<i>Yorkshire</i>		
<i>Newcastle</i>		
<i>Newbury</i>		
<i>Oxford</i>		
<i>Sbropshire</i>		
<i>Welsh</i>	}	Beer
and other Sorts of		

<i>Dorchester</i>	}	Beer
<i>Chichester.</i>		
And other Sorts of		

To which may be added the Number of Fine Ale Brewers in and about *London*, which of late Years by a moderate Computation increased to upwards of 300, and the Brewing of Private Families, which has greatly increased of late.

Most part of this Fine Ale and Beer is sold at Sixpence *per* Quart or dearer; from which it may reasonably be supposed it has at least twice the Strength of Common Ale, and therefore must go twice as far in the Consumption, altho' it pays no more Duty; but upon this Computation it appears, that every 100*l.* Excise paid for these Fine Ales and Beer must lessen the general Revenue of Excise 100*l.* tho' the Quantity of Malt or Hops for Brewing may in the whole be still employed in the same Proportions. And

And since I have mentioned these Fine Ales, I cannot omit remarking the Evil Consequences of drinking them to excess, which every One must allow is more practised than in any other Case whatsoever. In respect to Quantity, were a Man to make his Observations in the Publick Houses selling these Liquors, he would find Artificers of the better sort and Tradesmen, the Sottish Consumers of them, at once wasting their time, and destroying their Constitutions; And Experience may convince every man how unwholesome excessive Drinking of these fine Ales are, by the Disorders they bring on human Bodies; how strongly they intoxicate and lie in the Head; and yet it does not follow that the Brewing such Liquors is to be prohibited, because an ill Use is made in consuming them.

But among all the Arguments made use of, by the ingenious Author, who will be contented with nothing less than the Utter Destruction of the *British* Distillery; the Assertion, that it is destructive to the Landed Interest, is so strange and monstrous, that I believe, few People, who have given any Attention to so Important a Question as this under consideration, need any Arguments to convince them of it's Fallacy.

However, that every thing he has said, may be fully considered; I shall examine the several Calculations he makes in support of that Assertion.

He computes the Number of Persons, whose Stomachs are vitiated by drinking Drams in *London* only, to be 200,000, (modestly suggesting

getting at the same Time, that he fears they are Double the Number).

That every one of these 200,000 drink a Pint of Spirits a Day, and therefore cannot eat a Pennyworth of common Food.

Which Want of Appetite is 3*d.* a Day, or 4*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.* a Year, for each Person, Loss to the Landed Interest; amounting to little less than a Million.

He likewise computes, that not one of this Army of Gin-drinkers, can do above half a Day's Work, which he computes an equal Loss to the Landed Interest; which amounts to near another Million *per ann.* tho' I think if this Assertion is true, that it amounts in the least, to only about a Million in the whole.

That in the Composition of a Pint of Spirits, there is not used as much Grain, or Fruit, as costs the Distiller a single Farthing.

And that every Twenty Shillings, laid out by the Distillers in Barley, Malt, or Wheat, and made into Spirits, takes off from the Demand of all Sorts of Estates, as much as the Farmer ought to sell for 3*l.*

I shall not trouble myself with comparing the Contradictions of one Part of these Calculations with the other Part; but shall think it sufficient for my Purpose, to show the Suppositions are every one False, and indeed, in their own Nature, mere Impossibilities——As for Instance,

A Pint a Day consumed by 200,000 People, is 25000 Gallons a Day, or NINE MILLIONS,

ONE

ONE HUNDRED, TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND GALLONS A YEAR, which is more by THREE MILLION, NINE HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR GALLONS, than is made in the whole Kingdom from Malt Spirits, Molasses, Cyder and Wines, —no Allowance made for Spirits Exported or Consumed by Apothecaries and Artificers, nor one Dram left for sober purposes, or for Men in any Degree of Health. Punch-drinkers, or those who live in the Country. Surely, whilst these 200,000 Men live and consume all the Poison, the rest of the Kingdom can be in no Danger.

Now what Credit will any Impartial Man give to an Author, who has so little Sense of Shame, as to attempt putting off these Absurdities, or rather these Untruths, on the World; or what Regard ought to be had to any Reasoning drawn from such Assertions?

I would not be thought to pick out a Single Instance of this Nature, to call the Veracity of an Author in Question, altho' it happens in so material an Article; but all his Calculations are indeed of the same Stamp: He pretends to assert, that a Pint of Spirits does not stand the Distiller in a Single Farthing, for the prime Cost of the Grain or Fruit employed therein; whereas it as an apparent Truth, the whole Trade will readily demonstrate, to any Person desirous to be satisfied therein, that Twenty Shillings of Grain will not make above Twenty Gallons of Spirit (and sometimes not so much according to the Goodness of the Grain) which amounts to Three Half-pence a Pint prime Cost, in that one Article only.

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There is another Absurdity I must also take notice of. Our Author will not allow his 200,000 Dram-drinkers to do above Half a Days Work, and bestows Threepence on each of them to spend in Drams——This indeed may be afforded by some sorts of Artificers, who earn great Wages ; but cannot be supposed to be afforded by that sort of People our Author will not suffer to eat any Dinner. There are many of the common People in *London*, as well as many Manufactures in the Country, who by the labour they have been bred to, cannot earn above 10 *d.* a Day, one with another. Many of these have a Wife to maintain, or at least Children. Now if such a one does but Half a Day's Work instead of a whole one, his Earnings are reduced from 10 *d.* to 5 *d.* and if 3 *d.* is laid out in Spirits, he must provide his two other Meals, all other Refreshment and Necessaries with the 2 *d.* a Day, which is all this unmerciful Author has left to support the poor Man and Family.

Surely an Author cannot be Serious in these monstrous Calculations ; at least one would imagine it could hardly enter into his Head, that a Legislature could be imposed on by Arguments drawn from such Foundations.

The next Method used, to show how prejudicial the Consumption of Grain in the *British* Distillery is to the Landed Interest, is first by stating a Computation of the Value of the Livestock of the Nation 40 Years since ; and asserting the same has, within these seven or eight Years, lessened in Value near 20 *per Cent.*
which

which is a Loss to the Landed Interest he attributes wholly to the Distillery.

There is one Monstrous Paradox asserted at the same Time by this Dealer in Figures; that the Quantity of Live-Stock lessens, and the Price lessens also. Were he to assert that the Quantity lessened, and the Price rose; or that the Value lessened by the too great Quantity bred; it would have had a Face of Probability, whether true or false in itself; but that both can be true, I believe no man can believe; nor do I apprehend any great Difficulty in demonstrating both to be False.

Those who are the least conversant in Country Affairs, must needs know, that the Produce of a Farm in every Branch is greatly increased within these forty Years past. This the Landlords know by raising their Rents, and the Clergy by the Increase of Tithes; and that this Increase has been generally made, as much in Live-Stock, as in any other Produce of a Farm; particularly in great Part of *Wales*, and some Part of *Scotland*, where they have no other Means to raise their Rents for the Landlord.

This is also manifest by the great Improvement in Grass-Seeds. How many Farms, using that good Husbandry, Raise and Fatten treble the Quantity of Stock they used to Raise only, and sell Hay where they used to buy? And will any Man assert, that the Fodder or Provision for Beasts, Increases to so great a degree, as is manifest to every one who makes the least Observation; and that the Live-Stock, who only can consume it, at the same Time Lessens?

A farther Demonstration may be had in this Case, by the Progress of the Tanning-Trade, and the Increase of both the Home Consumption, and Exportation of Leather of different Sorts.

Do we not see Tanners increase, not only about *London*, but in all Parts of the Kingdom? Must not the great Increase of People, within Forty Years past, occasion a greater Consumption of Leather of different Sorts, for different Uses well known to every one?

Do not our Bills of Entry show the great Increase, in the Exportation of Leather and Skins to *Flanders, Holland, Germany, the North, the Streights*, and elsewhere? And is not the whole confirmed by the known Increase of that Part of the Revenue, laying a Duty on Hides, Skins, &c. which amounts, as I have been credibly informed, tho' I have not seen the Estimates, to more than Double what it formerly was.

But perhaps I may be told, that Leather and Skins may increase faster than the Live-Stock: If that is the Answer, having seen other Things asserted equally rational, I own I am silenced.

As to the particular Article of Sheep, the known Increase of our Woollen Manufactures, the incredible Multiplying of Artificers employed therein, the known Increase of our Exportation, as well as the late Improvement of Turnips, which enables many Farmers to fat 500 Sheep, who before could not keep 100, are sufficient Proofs that they are no Part of the Live-Stock, imagined to be Decreased by the
Increase

Increase of Tillage ; which latter must still remain an entire Acquisition to the Landed Interest ; and the *British* Distillery : And so great a Consumption of it's Product must be esteemed a valuable Manufacture, and National Advantage.

Our Author, not contented with lessening the Quantity of all Live-Stock in the Kingdom, as another Proof to show how pernicious the Distillery is to the Landed Interest, also asserts the Demand for Milk is greatly lessened, the Dairy-Men being therefore found to sell off Part of their Stock ; which he founds on a Story, of Mothers and Nurses giving Gin to their Children : And that the Dealers in Flesh of late Years, for Want of Purchasers of the coarse Parts of their Beasts, are forced to bury it on the Dunghill : And also that Cheese and Butter yield a Low Price from the same Causes. As to the Milk-story of Dairy-Men selling off their Stock, the Assertion is so loose, that it needs very little Answer ; I shall only observe, he has given us no Estimate of the Number of Cows usually kept about *London*, by which the Reader might judge of the Truth of this imaginary Decrease ; nor has he made any Computation of the Number of Milk-Eaters. I believe that is a Diet the Poorer Sort of People cannot usually afford to any but Infants of the Youngest Sort ; a Piece of Bread and a Draught of Water, having been always more common with such Children.

That Dairy-Men sell off their Stock, can no ways be applied to the Case in Question, if the Fact be so ; of which no Proof is offered. It may more reasonably be caused by their being Over-stocked ; which too often happens, and

is many Times occasioned by the Cheapness of Hay, and the great Plenty of Grass, which has been remarkable for some Years past, and the same Answer may serve as to the Remark on Cheese and Butter; with this Observation, that it's Cheapness cannot happen without it's great Plenty; and how that suits with what is before asserted of the great Decrease of Live-Stock: Whether Cheese and Butter can Increase in Quantity, and Cows Lessen in Number, I leave the reader to judge. As to the Want of Consumption of coarse Pieces of Meat, and burying it on Dunghills, that must be looked upon as a meer Romance, standing singly upon our Author's Word and Honour. He has produced no one Instance in Support of his Assertion, nor indeed can he. The Suggestion is well known to be untrue, unless he means unwholesome Meat; which may be sometimes killed; and if buried in the Dunghills, it is the fittest Use it can be put to: For sure he would not desire the Poor to be twice poisoned; first with Liquor, and then with Victuals.

One would have thought our Author would have been contented with exhausting more than all the Spirits drawn from Malt, and other Grain, by the daily Labours of his 200,000 vitiated Gin-drinkers: But his Zeal in this Dispute has occasioned his adding an equal Number of another Class, viz. those who are in the way of destroying themselves, but who have not yet compleated their Work.

He has indeed placed them all within Ten Miles of *London*, but has not prescribed any certain Dose for their daily Use. However, taking for granted he will keep them to short Allow-

Allowance; I may venture to calculate for him in his own way, that Half a Pint a Day will be sufficient for this last Corps. If that is to be the Computation, they must consume 4562500 Gallons for their Share; but he has not been pleased to show how they are provided with this Quantity of Spirits; for the first Army of 200,000 he raised for this Service, on his Calculation, consume 3,000,924 Gallons more than is distilled from all Materials whatsoever, both Grain, Molasses, Cyder, and Wines, notwithstanding he is pleased to compute the *British* Spirits yearly distilled, a greater Quantity, without Foundation; tho' even that is not sufficient to answer the actual Consumption he thus pretends to be made by Dram-Drinkers only, exclusive of the Consumption for other Purposes, which is before particularly stated.

The next Grievance complained of, is indeed pretty extraordinary; that a prodigious Number of Hogs are fatted by Distillers Wash, which he determines at once to be 10*l.* a Year Loss to a Farmer renting 100*l.* a Year, but much more in *Shropshire* and other Countries, where great part of the Rent is made, as he says, out of Hogs; and that the Farmers instead of sending them fat, now send them as Stores.—— And what is worse,—— the Distillers feed them cheap, and contract with the Navy at a lower Price than the Farmer can do.—— And this is another National Grievance. This is so very absurd, that one can hardly tell where to begin to expose it. He has supplied the Kingdom with a prodigious Number of Hogs indeed, — if a Tenth Part of
of

of the Rent of all the Lands in *England* is to be made out of Hogs Flesh. — He would have been but Civil to have told us who are to eat them all. — He just before would not allow 200,000 Men to eat any Dinner; and now he is cramming all the rest of the Kingdom with Pork and Bacon. — But to examine this a little more closely.

As it is allowed the Farmer sells his Hogs to the Distillers as Stores, we may reasonably suppose they are worth 20 s. each, and (when fattened with Grain, and sold at the cheapest Price they may be supposed to sell for in the Country) that they yield 2 l. each, — the Loss then is 20 s. on each Hog fattened; and a Farmer, renting 100 l. a Year, losing 10 l. he must sell Ten Hogs for Stores to the Distiller.

Now, as the yearly Value of all the Lands in *England* may be computed at 20 Millions, then — of the whole Stock of Hogs (not including Boars, Sows, Pigs, or what is employed for making Brawn, Pickled Pork, Bacon, or otherwise consumed in Town or Country) there must be two Millions sent to *London* to be fattened by the Distillers: — I think our Author might have made some Deduction from hence in favour of the *Jews*, who are pretty numerous within the *Bills of Mortality*, and are known to abhor that Diet. — But to be serious on this subject — the Fact happens to be, that, on the best Computation, the Amount of Hogs fattened in a Year by the Distillers in *London* does not exceed 50,000 which is about a fortieth Part of the Calculation. And could they fat Double the
Number,

Number, I shall undertake to demonstrate they would do a Publick Good, and a Service to the Landed Interest.

It is well known, that the best Bacon cannot be made by fatting Hogs with any thing but Peas and Beans, and that such Bacon made by a Farmer in the Country, will stand in little less than 5 *d.* a Pound ; Whereas the Distillers fatting with their Wash, (which is the Liquor left in the Still after the Spirit extracted) and with the Grains, can afford it so cheap, that the Bacon made of their Hogs is often sold at Market for 3 *d.* Halfpenny a Pound, and that a Farmer who is a good Husband, will sell his own Bacon for 5 *d.* and buy the Distillers Bacon, which is very fat and fine to the Eye, and fit for Laborious Men, tho' not so firm as the other, to spend in his own Family : And if he does not fat an equal Quantity of Hogs at home, he sells his Grain for ready Money, which yields him Double the Advantage as giving it to his Hogs would do. — As the Farmer therefore is not prejudiced, but rather benefited, by the Cheapness, I believe none of the Manufacturers or Handicrafts in *London* will complain of the Cheapness of Provisions, any more than the Officers of the Navy in saving the Publick Money.

The next Objection to the Distillery, is lessening the Consumption of Hops. — And what is said to prove this? — Nothing — It rests upon the same footing as his Hogs do — with this Difference, that the Annual Consumption of Hops is well known to great Exactness by every eminent Dealer in *London*, and therefore, had there been any truth in this Assertion, it might easily have been demonstrated. It is certain, Hops have been greatly over planted in

in *England*, particularly in the Western Parts, where of late Years they have made great Plantations, and are no longer supplied from the East and Southern Parts; and at the same time in *Ireland*, which used to be a certain Vent for a great Quantity of that Commodity, they have made considerable Plantations also, and consequently their Demand from *England* is so much lessened. These Circumstances, and the Cheapness of Hops, by reason of plentiful Crops, and the Dearness of Poles in many Places where the Woods were exhausted, and not the Growth of the British Distillery, occasioned some Years since a Run on the other Extream, viz. the destroying too many Plantations; which, being succeeded by Indifferent Crops, raised the Price of Hops again; which gave People a Humour of making New Plantations, which may probably soon end in the former Extream. Tho' the certain Annual Consumption, if I am rightly informed, has been, for Three Years last past that Distillery has been Increased, Equal at least to any former time on a Medium.

As to the Luxury and Extravagance complained of in Farmers and Servants; to speak of it in General Terms, it is no doubt an Evil every Good Man would wish a Reformation in: But I only confine the Objection to the Poorer Sort who have not Ability. We have many wealthy Farmers in *England*, who have acquired good Fortunes by their Labour and Industry, who have a right to enjoy the Fruits of it equal with any Man in the Kingdom: for That is the true and essential Characteristic of Liberty, which is only known in a Free Country, and which People in that Station under an arbitrary Government, are deprived of.

But

But as to the Poorer sort and Servants, it is with them, as it always was even before Geneva was known ; they have generally one piece of Manners inherent in them, to be fond of imitating the examples of their Betters ; and whilst Luxury and Extravagance reigns so powerfully among Landlords and Masters, they must never expect Reformation to begin by their Tenants and Servants ——— But these Sins, I think, can hardly be placed to the account of *British* Spirits.

The next Objection that I find on this subject are long quotations of an Anonymous Physician, describing many cases in which Spirituous Liquors may be pernicious ; to which he has tack'd the sentiments of a famous Water Doctor in his *Essay on Health*, who is so very fond of his own way to long life, as to declare war against all other Liquors, and who would be as little a favourer of Beer and Ale or *French* Wines as he is of a Malt Spirit.

However I can't but think it something strange this Doctor's Essay should be quoted in this case, when the doctor expressly declares in his preface, that *the Robust, Luxurious and Pot Companions have no business with his Book, but that it was designed for the sickly, the aged, the studious, and the sedentary, &c.*

But this is a point on which it is needless to make any farther observations ; and as all Doctors do not agree, I have quoted them One of the contrary opinion ; and I believe I could
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produce several authorities of the like kind, to say as many dismal things, and give as long a Catalogue of diseases incident to the too frequent use of all Liquors whatever, nay of great part of our Food; tho' at the same time it cannot be supposed, any man in his senses will imagine these Learned Gentlemen meant utterly to condemn the nature of spirituous liquors of a wholesome composition, but rather the Excessive use, or what relates to Particular constitutions, which I know no one that will attempt to defend.

I wonder, since according to our author's doctrine there have been so many martyrs to Geneva, that none of them have yet found the way to Surgeon's Hall. The Gentlemen and Ladies there appropriated to the publick service, may be reasonably supposed to have been drawn off from among the 200,000 Gin Drinkers of the First Class——Surely some symptoms would appear of their viciated Stomachs and long diet on fire——But I have not yet heard of any Discovery of that kind, or any Authority of real Experiments to fortify all the Conjectures of terrible effects attending those who drink any Spirituous Liquors.

Having thus examined the pretended Facts advanced by this Author in support of his Scheme to destroy the *British* Distillery, in which I hope every impartial reader will think I have made good one part of my proposition in Detecting them, I shall in the next place proceed to examine the solemn application he makes to the Legislature, with the invocation
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of Lives, Liberties, Fortunes, Posterity,
Reason, Interest and Religion to destroy these
Hofes humani Generis, the *British* Distillery. As
to impotence and barrenness being one of the
consequences of drinking Spirituous Liquors,
which he calls the greatest enemy to fertility, I
think this Objection hardly agrees with what he
before mentioned of Mothers and Nurses using
to drink spirituous liquors; and I believe if the
Article of Bastards, in the account of the
several parishes within the Bills of Mortality,
were to be examined, they will not be found to
have Decreased on the Increase of the Distillery;
and I believe every one will allow the Common
People, who may be supposed to be the Gin
Drinkers, have an equal share with their Bet-
ters in that way of life.

As to the suggestion of the Decrease of the
bulk of the people in the Bills of Mortality,
which is positively asserted as a Fact tho' no
ways proved; I have consulted the only Publick
Authority I know for that purpose; I mean the
Works of that Learned and Venerable Society
the *Parish Clerks*, who have not, as I can find,
thought fit in the compass of the last year to
kill above 69 of excessive drinking; but whe-
ther of Spirits, Beer or any other liquor does
not appear in those accounts: And by this,
taking these gentlemen never to err in their
judgments, is made appear the decrease of the
bulk of the people pretended by our author:
For I do not know he has referred to any other
proof of his general assertion, and therefore I
must take this for the only one.

He does indeed make an observation, that more Children dye under three years old since the use of Spirituous Liquors than before —

And therefore those liquors must be the Cause

He might with equal certainty have said, that such Increase of Deaths happen'd since the use of Narrow Brim'd Hats, which therefore was the Cause.

He likewise observes, in augmentation of the increase of burials within the bills of mortality, that neither Quakers or Papists are included, which would swell the parish accounts; but, with submission to this very ingenious Politician, Are not the births and christenings of quakers or papists omitted where their burials are omitted? Or will he insist that they are also enervated with Spirits, so as to have frequent Deaths but no Increase of Children: If so, we may be truly said to be out of all Danger from Popery.

These ingenious remarks he winds up with an Assertion, that if some stop is not put to what he describes as pernicious practices (meaning the *British* Distillery) the Bills of Mortality will decrease every year — Whether he means Increase or Decrease, who can tell? If the latter; as it stands it is so unintelligible that I am at a loss how to answer it.

The next assertion in my way is, his relating what an Eminent Physician without a name told him of the epidemical sickness in 1733, when the Medicines prescribed had little effect on those
who

who drank Gin—— To which he adds an Observation of his own, that several of these people, under this Epidemical sickness, dyed in the hospitals, and were found to have their Livers spoiled and burnt up with inflammatory Spirits—— This is so darkly related that one must imagine it was purposely done to avoid Confutation. What were these Persons?— What Hospitals did they dye in?— Where is the publick Attestation of the Physicians or Surgeons attending them, which would have been more material to his purpose than all his wretched Calculations, and worse Reasoning on this Subject?—— But to judge of this story as he relates it, stript of his own monstrous conclusions—— The people dyed of the epidemical distemper he talks of, and tho' they might sometimes drink Gin, it would not cure them.

The next Assertion seems to be equally founded on truth and reason—— He says, our Sailors in the *West-Indies* dye in great Numbers by drinking Spirits, but of what sort he does not mention—— that in *Barbadoes*, *Antigua* and *Jamaica*, when they cannot get *Madera* wine, they are forced drink on Rum-Punch, of which they dye very fast : And that this was one occasion of the last Years great Mortality in *Jamaica*.

This is like the rest, destitute of Proof ; nay, Experience falsifies some part of it ; for all people, who know any thing of that climate, allow that in Punch it is not the Rum which is the Pernicious ingredient, but the Acid,
the

the Lime, that creates the Disorders common to that Hot climate—As to the Cause of any extraordinary Mortality last Year in *Jamaica*, I must own he has travelled so far for Evidence, that I am not prepared to give an answer to a fact I am an utter stranger to.

As to the Authority of the Mohawks not liking Rum as an intoxicating liquor; that seems also to be to as little purpose as the rest; but it may be supposed they would as little desire Wine or any other intoxicating Liquor to be brought amongst them, which may be proper enough for a Barbarous uncultivated people, to whom both Arts and Sciences are wholly unknown.

I could produce him an Authority of a different nature; the truth of which may be easily manifested; I mean the usage of Spirituous Liquors amongst the *Dutch* in much greater quantities than ever was known in *England*; both Old and Young constantly habituating themselves to it, yet we have never heard of any inconveniencies happening to this industrious opulent people by the use of this Commodity. If that was the case, the Good Policy of their Government, and the known due execution of the Laws is such that they would hardly for so many years have been so fond of this Liquor. I know not what our author can object to this instance, unless he should take it in his head to say, Spirituous Liquors are Poison to an *Englishman*, and Physick to a *Dutchman*.

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The next thing our author urges is with a little more shew of reason when he speaks against Drunkenness and Immorality, which every one would wish to see a Reformation in; but, as those Arguments are not more particularly applicable to the Manufacture of *British* Spirits, than any other Liquor, it needs No answer in this place.

But as to his Conclusion of the whole, with what he calls the Short Question——whether the Distilling of Spirituous Liquors, big with so many Mischiefs, should be allowed at all——It will be necessary, in the conclusion of these Remarks, to give that Question a full and particular Consideration. I believe from what Observations have been made, that the great Importance of the *British* Distillery to the Nation in general is sufficiently manifest; tho' at the same time its pernicious Nature, and the Infinite Mischiefs arising from it, have not been any wise made appear in any other manner than may be objected to Liquors of all kinds which, *if taken to excess*, become hurtful.

I shall therefore consider how far this Manufacture may be particularly Useful, and really a Relief to the common people in many Cases; and how far the extraordinary use of it may be hurtful and proper to be prevented, without Destroying the Manufacture in general.

We ought to consider how many Thousands of the common people are exposed to great
Hardships

Hardships and the Inclemency of the Weather, who labour day and night rather like Horses than Men; some upon the Land, some upon the Water; some Artificers continually at Great Fires; and in those Extremes of heat and cold it must be allowed, that the Ordinary Nutriment alone, which is in their power to procure, will not be sufficient to enliven them, and keep the Animal Spirits in due motion without the assistance of Spirituous Liquors; which in those circumstances strongly have the Beneficial Effects ascribed to them by Doctor Quincy in the quotation before made.

The Common Tippling Houses, where Spirits are sold to loose and disorderly persons, who may make those Places their Rendezvous, and being heated with excessive drinking commit great Inmoralities and other degrees of wickedness, are no doubt such an Abuse as wants a regulation. I put them therefore upon the same footing with Disorderly Alehouses, which are provided with all the Inticements for idle people to habituate themselves to Drunkenness, as Shuffle-Boards, Nine-pins, Fives, and other Gaming, which unites loose people in Gangs, and often occasions their contriving Robberies or Murders to support the extraordinary expences of those places, far exceeding those where Spirits are retailed; where Artificers learn by those Recreations to spend both Time and Money, leave their Families in the mean time starving or to the care of the Parish, Apprentices learn to waste their Master's Time, and from thence are taught by degrees to rob them, to defray the expence of it, and where-
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in short Cheating, Swearing, Lying, Gaming, Drunkenness and all other Immoralities are at the highest pitch; and from these nurseries the whole mass of people may easily be infected.

But what is the Proper and Reasonable means of remedying these Disorders? — Does it follow that both Distilling and Brewing are to be prohibited? Or is it not a more reasonable method to enact some Laws for their Better Regulation? as for Instance.

That from and after the day of
no distiller or other person whatsoever except
Annkeepers, Victuallers and persons keeping
publick Coffee-houses to be licensed for that
purpose by the Justices in open Sessions shall
sell any Spirituous Liquors of any kind or na-
ture soever to be drank in his her or their Shop
Warehouse, Shed, or other Place possessed by
him her or them. And that all and every per-
son or persons offending therein and being there-
of convicted on oath of two credible witnesses
in a summary way before any of His Majesty's
Justices of the Peace shall for every such of-
fence be liable to such penalties as the Parlia-
ment in their great wisdom shall think fit. By
which means the real Abuses would be remedied,
and the National Interest in this Manufacture of
the *British* Distillery Preserved, and the Reason-
able use of that commodity to industrious la-
borious people left open.

One thing might, indeed be also necessary, if such a plan were to take place; that a better Regulation should be made in the inferior Officers concerned to put the Laws in execution. So that their Interests or Advantage might not lie in Authorizing or Conniving at Wickedness or Debauchery. Were Laws of this kind to be made and Effectually put in execution, I believe every impartial Man will allow the crying evils of all kinds would be remedied, and as thorough a reformation made as can be expected among Mankind, and as is consistent with Wealth, Trade and Riches.

But even This would not answer the ends secretly proposed by some people; it would not Destroy the Distillery and Increase the Brewery in its stead. Therefore the Whole Secret must come out, and according to the Question proposed by our Author, the Distilling must not be allowed at all. Now for Argument sake, were that the Case, let us consider the Consequences.

French Brandies, or rather a *Cyder Spirit* so called, *Dutch Spirits*, drawn from our own Malt, would be poured in upon us, and be consumed in the place of our own Spirits, rob the Landed Interest, and send out so much Specie out of the Kingdom, the Product of the Labour and Industry of other Manufactures.

I am aware of an Objection to be made to this Supposition, viz.

That Foreign Brandies and Spirits are subject to a High Duty; that they could not be afforded at a price to be purchased by the Common people. To which I answer,

That before the Duties were laid on French Brandy, it was usually retailed in England at 2 d. a quatern; at which price, although labour was not so dear by near one Third as at present, yet it was usually purchased by the common people; and as the Duties are at present, it may be very well afforded by retail at 3 d. a quatern. Besides is it not reasonable to suppose, if the Price should be found too heavy for the Common people, that the Proof would be lowered by Mixtures with Water, Cyder, or the like, and thereby at once better fitted both to the Palate and Pocket of the purchaser?

And in such case, might we not expect that most Pernicious Infamous practice of Smuggling to be opened again to its full extent, which Penal Laws yet never could effectually remedy, although the making a Commodity little inferior from our own Grain and Molasses has gone a great way to the Destruction of that most Enormous Vice.

The evils of Smuggling are very great, they indeed affect the Landed Interest, and every thing

thing else that is dear and valuable to a Civilized Nation.

Let any Man but go into the Counties of *Kent* and *Sussex*, *Norfolk* or *Suffolk*, or any other county conveniently situate for Smugling. There he will find all the Young, Stout, Able bodied Men, who should by their Labour and Industry be Useful to the commonwealth, leading an Idle, Vagabond, Dissolute life ; acquiring in a Night the price of a months labour, by defrauding the Publick and injuring the Fair Trader ; which he immediately riotously consumes in all Wantonness and Debauchery, and being continually heated with the Liquors he deals in, and terrified with the punishment the laws inflict on Conviction, becomes desperate, values not his Own life and is therefore easily master of another Man's, goes about the country like the Banditti ; inures himself to Cruelty and sometimes washes his hands in the blood of Innocent men, acting in discharge of their trust. In the mean time the Farmer wants hands sufficient to cultivate the Land, and all Labour by that means becomes exceeding Dear. Hands are even wanted to get in the Harvest. The Supply from *Ireland* and *Wales*, which annually swarm to the adjacent countries, are not sufficient, so that 3 s. or 4 s. per day is sometimes paid for Labour in Harvest time : And what does all this end in ? Why sometimes Hanging, sometimes Transportation, sometimes running away for fear of one or the other, sometimes a Goal for the Duty ; or if all those fail,

fail, the Cargo being lost, he is laid in Goal for Debts contracted in the Unlawful Employment; but in either case a Wife and miserable family of Young Children are often left as a charge and Burthen on the Parish, to be maintained by the Labour and Industry of honest men; which case happens so often, that, in some of the Counties I have named the Poor's rate has amounted to 5 s. or 6 s. in the pound.

This Loose to iniquity, the very Temptation to commit it, is prevented and taken away by the Consumption of *British* Spirits. By such means these people, who otherwise are a Burthen, become Useful members of the commonwealth. A National Advantage visibly accruing from the Manufacture of British Spirits.

If to avoid these evils, all Foreign Brandys and Spirits were prohibited also, I shall not consider how that would suit our Interest with respect to Neighbouring States, which is a point beyond my province; but shall only observe from all past experience that *the greater the Restraint, the greater the Temptation to break thro' it*: And, to make the Scheme compleat, we must also prohibit Arrack, for the Consumption of the Better sort, and Rum for the Rest. The One the Importation of that great Trading Body, the *India* Company, and the Other the Product of our Colonies, without which Restraint Drunkenness would still have footing among us.

But if They are to be interdicted also, the Brewery would hardly raise it self. The
Common

Common people must drink Water, which would bring one national advantage, it would mend their complexions. And as for the loss of the Revenue appropriated to the Support of the Creditors of the Publick, That no doubt would be made good by these Projectors, they would propose an Additional Duty on Beer and Ale, Small and Strong; and what That should fall short of raising, might be laid on Bread and Water, the Prison Diet and Only Support left for our common people.

I have not gone thus far in tracing the Author under consideration, or answering him in so many particulars, from any Weight I apprehended either in his Calculations or Reasonings, or from the consideration of his Ability, but purely for the sake of the great Importance of the thing in question: and that those, who are not willing to take so much pains in an inquiry of this nature as may be necessary, may not, under the Specious pretext of preventing Drunkenness and Immorality, be brought into a Scheme calculated to destroy One of the most Valuable Manufactures in the Kingdom; which I hope one day to see carry'd on to universal Satisfaction, by taking off all the Discouragements attending it, as well as retrenching all the ill Uses made of it by an unlimited Liberty.

I shall conclude the whole with a remark of an Eminent and Judicious Author.

" If it be a reason to lay by any thing as Bad,
 " because it is, or may be used to an ill purpose
 " I know not what will be Innocent enough to
 " be kept. Arms which were made for our
 " Defence, are sometimes made use of to do
 " Mischief ; and yet they are not thought of
 " dangerous consequence for all that. No
 " body lays by his Sword and Pistols, or thinks
 " them of such Dangerous consequence as to
 " be neglected, or thrown away, because Rob-
 " bers, and the worst of men, sometimes make
 " use of them, to take away honest men's
 " Lives or Goods. And the reason is, because
 " they were designed and will serve to Preserve
 " them."

E I N I S.

